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NEW YORK (AP) - CIA Director George Bush says the United States will continue covert political activity abroad even though recent disclosures have made it more difficult for the agency to maintain foreign contacts.

"Somewhere between sitting on our hands doing nothing and sending in the Marines, we do need covert intelligence activity," Bush said in an address Monday to the Harvard Business School Club of New York. In general terms and without mentioning names, Bush listed instances in which the CIA's foreign contacts have stopped working with the agency for fear of exposure in the media.

"Two U.S. firms that were openly providing information for the CIA now say they won't any longer," Bush said. "A ranking European official who has been a secret agent since 1972 has refused to work with the CIA for fear of exposure."

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